## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated June 4, 2003, the Examiner: (1) objected to the abstract for exceeding the word count limitation of 150; (2) rejected claims 1, 5 and 6 as allegedly lacking antecedent basis; (3) rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17-19 as anticipated by *Perloff* (U.S. Patent No. 4,984,251); (4) rejected claim 3 as allegedly unpatentable over *Perloff* in view of *Agazzi* (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,746); (5) rejected claim 10 as allegedly unpatentable over *Perloff* in view of *Agazzi* and further in view of *Kim* (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,498); and (6) indicated the allowability of claims 8, 9, 13 and 16.

With this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 8, 9, 14, 16 and 17 in favor of those same claims in the parent case. Further, Applicants amend claims 1, 11 and 14, cancel claims 18 and 19, and present new claims 20-23. The cancellation of claims 18 and 19 is to narrow the issues before the Examiner, and is without prejudice to later asserting those claims, such as in a continuation application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the currently pending claims.

### I. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

With this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants amend the specification in several respects. First, Applicants note this application's relationship to the parent case. Second, Applicants amend the Abstract as requested by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 4, 2003 in the parent case.

Applicants also amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 1, to more clearly indicate that the comma delimiter may also be referred to as a comma symbol. This amendment is to provide antecedent basis for the comma symbol term in the claims. No new matter is presented by these amendments

### II. SECTION 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

In the Office Action dated June 4, 2003 in the parent case, the Examiner rejected claim 1 as allegedly lacking antecedent basis for the "less than" term. The Examiner is directed to page 19 of the specification, as well as Figure 9.

> The leftmost block of Figure 9 represents the contents of four FIFO buffers and the four lanes at a clock time T. In this example, FIFO number 3 has a COM delimiter in the uppermost location of the buffer. In accordance with the description above, at the next clock

> time FIFO number 3 will keep this word in the upper buffer and read a new word from lane 3 into the buffer. Since the other FIFOs do not contain a COM word, the contents of those buffers will be discarded at the clock time.

Specification, page 19, lines 5-10. Thus, the specification, in combination with Figure 9, describes a situation in which a start symbol is detected in less than all the FIFO buffers, and the logic is configured to suspend output from the FIFO buffer in which the start symbol was detected.

The Examiner also rejected claims 5 and 6 as allegedly having insufficient antecedent basis for the term "comma symbol." As noted above, Applicants amend the specification to more clearly provide antecedent basis for the term "comma symbol."

## III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

### A. Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a high speed interconnection adaptor that comprises a FIFO buffer for each of a plurality of channels, and a reconstruction logic. During a training sequence, the reconstruction logic suspends output from FIFO buffers in which start symbols are detected and discard signals from FIFO buffers where start symbols are not detected. The suspension and discarding continues until start symbols are detected in all FIFO buffers. The Examiner rejected claim 1 as allegedly anticipated by *Perloff*. Applicants amend claim 1 to more clearly indicate that the recitations take place during a training sequence, and that the symbols are discarded for FIFO buffers not having a start symbol during the training sequence. These amendments find support in the original specification starting on page 18, line 21 and continuing through page 19, line 19, as well as in Figure 9. Applicants respectfully submit that *Perloff* does not teach or fairly suggest discarding symbols, or discarding symbols during a training sequence.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and all claims which depend from claim 1 (claims 2-4, 6-7 and 10), should be allowed.

### B. Claim 11

Claim 11 is directed to a method of de-skewing data received via a plurality of channels. The claim requires, *inter alia*, receiving (during a training period)

symbols into a plurality of FIFO buffers, and discarding symbols from FIFO buffers where start symbols are not detected until the start symbol is detected in each FIFO buffer. The Examiner rejected claim 11 as allegedly anticipated by *Perloff*. Applicants amend claim 11 to more clearly define that the action's claimed take place during a training period, and that symbols are discarded from buffers until a start symbol is detected. Applicants respectfully submit that *Perloff* does not teach or fairly suggest discarding symbols, or discarding symbols during a training sequence.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11, and all claims which depend from claim 11 (claims 12 and 14-15), should be allowed. Applicants amended claim 14 to be consistent with the amendments to claim 12, and to more clearly define that after the training period, actual data symbols are retrieved from the FIFO buffers.

**C. Claims 20-23**

New claims 20-23 have numerous limitations not found in the cited art, and should therefore be allowable.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

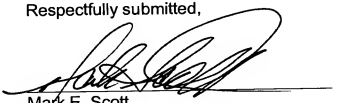
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-

Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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